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ALLEGED 9/11 MASTERMIND REACHES PLEA DEAL, AVOIDS DEATH PENALTY

The alleged mastermind of the deadliest attacks ever on US soil Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two other accused reached a plea deal with the US prosecutors, the Pentagon said on Thursday

The three were tortured extensively by the CIA. Their case has been delayed over whether the evidence extracted through torture was admissible in court. A plea deal avoids this problem

They have agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy in exchange for a life sentence

2003

When Khalid Sheikh was captured in Pak. He spent three years in secret CIA prisons before arriving in Guantanamo in 2006. A trusted lieutenant of Osama bin Laden, it was Sheikh's idea to use planes as weapons in the 9/11 attacks | P12

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Swapnil Kusale
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India shines at Olympics.
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Bridge rises but hope fades

Toll touches 256; Army opens Bailey bridge to restore connectivity

TOBY ANTONY
@Chooralmala (Wayanad)

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra crossing a make-shift bridge during their visit to Chooralmala in Wayanad on Thursday | EXPRESS

THE Army on Thursday evening opened the 190-ft-long Bailey bridge at Chooralmala that could help speed up the search operations at upstream Mundakkai and Punjirimattom villages but hopes of finding more survivors at the landslide-hit areas in Wayanad faded on Day 3 of rescue efforts.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, who visited the affected areas on Thursday, said all survivors in Mundakkai have been rescued, indicating there is little hope of finding more people alive.

During the day, search teams sifted through the rubble braving heavy rains and recovered seven more bodies, taking toll in the devastating tragedy to 256. Over 200 persons are still missing. The government tally, as given by Revenue Minister K Rajan, however, is 189.

"The debris at Punjirimattom and Mundakkai has piled up like a mountain. Most houses have been completed destroyed. The search and restoration efforts will be daunting and time-consuming, which would take more than a week," an official at the Control Room said. As per preliminary assessment, 348 houses were damaged in the landslides.

The pace of search operations at Mundakkai and Punjirimattom, which were cut off following the collapse of the bridge at Chooralmala, was slow till now because excavators could not cross the river. With the construction of the Bailey bridge, now heavy trucks carrying excavators and other equipment can reach the affected areas. On Thursday, four excavators were deployed in Chooralmala, three at Mundakkai and three at Punjirimattom, which remained inaccessible till Wednesday.

"Different batches of Army, Navy, NDRF and Fire Force officials are deployed at the affected areas. Besides, several volunteer groups are also active. Over 5,000 people are engaged in the search operation alone," said an official.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in LS Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the landslide-affected areas at Chooralmala on Thursday. P4,5

EXPRESS READ

Karnataka withdraws Rs 32Kcr GST evasion notice to Infosys

Bengaluru: Infosys on Thursday, in a filing, said Karnataka authorities have withdrawn the pre-showcause notice and directed the company to submit further response to the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI). The state GST authorities issued a notice first on GST tax evasion and subsequently the company also received a notice from DGGI. The company has been slapped with Rs 32,403 crore GST evasion for non-payment of GST for the period from July 2017 to March 2022.

Sub-classification of SCs by states valid, rules top court

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

A seven-judge Supreme Court bench in a landmark ruling on Thursday empowered states to sub-classify groups within the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs) to uplift the more socially and economically backward among them for reservation benefits.

The majority 6:1 verdict set aside a 2004 judgment by a five-judge bench in the E V Chinnaiah case, which had held that sub-classification was not permissible because SC/STs form homogenous classes.

But the 6:1 ruling said the SCs are heterogeneous. However, sub-classification can be done only on the basis of quantifiable and demonstrable data of backwardness and representation in government jobs and not on whims or political expediency, the bench said. P5,10

Ministers advise guv to withdraw notice against CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOR the first time in the history of Karnataka, the Council of Ministers (CoM) at its meeting on Thursday, "advised" the Governor to withdraw a show-cause notice issued to the Chief Minister, while rejecting the petition seeking permission to prosecute the latter.

The CoM did this in relation with the alleged irregularities in the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) which allotted Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi 14 sites in a prime location in Mysuru. This has raised a hue and cry in the opposition, which has demanded Siddaramaiah's resignation.

Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot issued a show-cause notice to the CM on July 26, based on a petition filed by activist TJ Abraham on the same day.

The meeting was chaired by DCM DK Shivakumar in the absence of Siddaramaiah, who recused himself as the agenda involved a petition against him and his family members. P4

Big-hitters gone, Swapnil shoots for stars

AT the shooting ranges, **Swapnil Kusale** recedes into a cocoon and blocks himself off from the noise. On Thursday, when the shooting final was on at the Chateauroux shooting centre, Swapnil shut himself from the outside world.

The competition was intense and Swapnil was see-sawing; sixth, fourth, third, second and third in the 50 m rifle 3-position final. There is no place for emotion in shooting. The heart needs to keep still and that's what Swapnil did while securing India one more bronze at the Olympics. He was hearing the PA system but did not pay heed to where he was positioned. The fifty-odd Indian supporters were cheering him on. "I did not pay attention to what the MC was saying. But I could hear the Indian fans shouting and I shifted my attention to that. And I said I don't want to disappoint them. I will have to win for them," he said after the bronze. This is India's first 3-position medal in the Olympics. P13

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Science & Technology

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka

BENGALURU INDIA NANO
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Nanotechnology for Sustainability
Climate, Energy & Healthcare
THEME

Shri N. S. Boseraju, Hon'ble Minister of Minor Irrigation and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, releasing the event brochure along with other dignitaries at the Curtain Raiser.

Inauguration By
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

In the August Presence of
Prof. C.N.R. Rao, FRS
Honorary Chairman, YGNT, Govt. of Karnataka;
National Research Professor & Linus Pauling Research Professor, Honorary President, JNCASR, Bengaluru

Distinguished Guests of Honour
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka

Shri N. S. Boseraju
Hon'ble Minister of Minor Irrigation and Science & Technology, Govt. of Karnataka

Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
Executive Chairperson, Biocon Ltd;
Chairperson, VGBT, BoK

Presided by
Shri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru

We look forward to your gracious presence

Prof. Navakanta Bhat
Chair, Vision Group on Nanotechnology, GoK,
Dean, Division of Interdisciplinary Sciences,
Professor, CeNSE, IISc, Bengaluru

Dr. Ekroop Caur, IAS
Secretary to Government
Dept. of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, GoK

Prof. P. S. Anil Kumar
Chair, CEC - Bengaluru INDIA NANO 2024
Dean, Administration & Finance,
Professor, Dept. of Physics, IISc, Bengaluru

Pavan Kumar Malapati, IAS
Director, Dept. of Science & Technology
Managing Director, Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society (KSTePS), GoK

INAUGURATION
Date: Friday, 02nd August, 2024 Time: 10:00 AM
Venue: Kalinga 1, The Lalit, Bengaluru

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